

A BOTANICAL ATLAS OF THE DANISH FLORA¹ — This fine illustrated work contains figures, drawn from living material, of most of the species of Bryophyta and vascular plants of the Danish flora. The first volume, with 515 plates, is devoted to the Angiosperms and the second one, with 240 plates, to the Bryophyta, Pteridophyta and Gymnosperms. One to several species are illustrated on each plate. The whole plant, or a portion of it, is presented and in addition some of its more significant details.

The second volume has a parallel English text and especially in this volume there is an introductory description and discussion of the larger families or groups. This text gives a valuable account of the life-history of the group and the seasonal development of the different structures. The ecology of the group is discussed and closely correlated with its life-history.

The phyletic theory presented at the end of the second volume is somewhat novel in presenting the Angiosperms as triphyletic. Each of the three lines is considered to have evolved from separate groups of the Bryophyta through groups of the lower vascular plants. This phylogeny is developed chiefly through a concept of the conifer cone and the *Equisetum* and *Selaginella* strobilus as primitive kinds of "flowers". While this theory will be of interest, its morphological basis may not be acceptable to many.

These volumes are not only useful as an iconography of the principal elements of the Danish flora, but also for information about the smaller structures of the species (stamens, ovaries, seed, peristome, spores, etc.) and about their ecological life-history as well. — ROLLA TRYON, GRAY HERBARIUM, HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

¹Botanisk Atlas, Danmarks Daekfrøede Planter, by Olaf Hagerup and Vagn Petersen. vol. 1. pp. 1-550. 1956. vol. 2. pp. 1-299. 1960. 4°. Ejnar Munksgaard. København.